

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01991 161515Z
ACTION PPT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6552

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, NI
SUBJECT: LEFEVRE PASSPORT - AIG CASE

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED ON FEBRUARY 13 FOLLOWING MEA NOTE (NO. K306/78) DATED FEBRUARY 10 ON STATUS LEFEVRE PASSPORT. QUOTE. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA PRESENTS THEIR COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 895 OF 21ST DECEMBER 1977 AND TO THE MINISTRY'S INTERIM REPLY NO.K. 19/78 OF 3 RD JANUARY 1978.

AS THE EMBASSY IS FULLY AWARE, THE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES OF

THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY, OF WHICH MR. LOUIS LEFEVRE IS A MANAGING DIRECTOR, HAVE BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE APPROPRIATE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES; AND SINCE THESE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN CONCLUDED, IT IS LIKELY THAT MR. LEFEVRE WILL STILL BE REQUIRED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

IF, THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT MR. LEFEVRE WILL NOT ABSCOND ON GETTING HOLD OF HIS PASSPORT, THE PASSPORT WILL BE RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY.

WHILE HOPING THAT THE EMBASSY WILL UNDERSTAND AND CO-OPERATE IN THIS MATTER, THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL
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REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF THEIR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

2. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DISCUSSED NOTE WITH LEFEVRE AND AIIC'S LOCAL ATTORNEY FRED EGBE ON FEBRUARY 14. LEFEVRE GAVE EMBASSY ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD NOT "ABSECON" (WEBSTER: "TO DEPART

CLANDESTINELY")FROM NIGERIA ON RECEIPT OF PASSPORT FROM EMBASSY.
HOWEVER, LEFEVRE DID STATE THAT LEGITIMATE BUSINESS AND FAMILY
RESPONSIBILITIES MIGHT REQUIRE HIS TRAVEL IN AND OUT OF NIGERIA.
LEFEVRE PROMISED TO RETURN TO NIGERIA TO ANSWER ANY CHARGES
ARISING FROM FMG INVESTIGATION INTO HIS ACTIVITIES AS AIIC
MANAGING DIRECTOR.

3. EMBASSY PROPOSES FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO MEA NOTE: QUOTE.
COMPLIMENTARY OPENING. THE EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED THE MINISTRY'S
NOTE WITH MR. LEFEVRE, AND HE HAS GIVEN THE EMBASSY ASSURANCES
THAT HE WILL NOT ABSCOND ON GETTING HOLD OF HIS PASSPORT FROM
THE EMBASSY. THE EMBASSY THUS REQUESTS THE TRANSFER OF MR.
LEFEVRE'S PASSPORT TO THE EMBASSY. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. UNQUOTE.
REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.
EASUM

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